

Lord "just like my father and grandfather." Now, don't get me wrong. I was grateful for the encouragement. But I had to face the fact that entering full time Christian service could have been for me a path of least resistance--a way of conforming to the expectations of the culture I was brought up in.

Therefore, I had to ask myself if I was truly responding to the will of God. And I need to keep making certain that my service is pleasing to God and not merely meeting the expectations of people.

I'm sure you face a similar tension. Are you just going through the motions of living for Christ to meet the expectations of your parents or church or group leader? Or are you doing it because of your obedient relationship to our loving Lord?

We should continually seek to know and obey God's will for us. If we don't, we may one day find that the motives behind our worship and service came from merely meeting the expectations of others--not from responding to the desires of Christ. --MD

REFLECTION

- When I find myself going through the motions of living the Christian life, what can I do to bring reality back into it?
- Whose expectations speak the loudest to me? Is that bad? In what way could that be good?

Live for an audience of One--God.



JANUARY 27, 2019

Just Like My Grandfather?

One of the greatest challenges we face is distinguishing between what Christ wants us to do and what people around us expect. We have to face this challenge every day. It's easy to assume we are living for the Lord when in reality we are meeting the religious expectations of our family or friends.

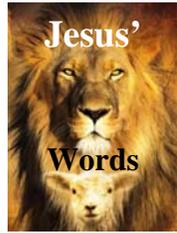
It's not a new problem. In Mark 7, Jesus confronted religious leaders who had fallen into the trap of being more concerned with pleasing their peers than God.

Let me illustrate the danger from my own experience. Dr. M. R. De Haan, my grandfather, was a gifted Bible teacher and the founder of Radio Bible Class (now RBC Ministries). When he died more than 30 years ago, my father took his place.

I can remember the many times people asked me if I would be serving the



Dr M R De Haan, son (Richard), and grandson (Mart)



What Matters Spiritually 1

(John 6:4) "Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near."

In Mark 7:1-22 Jesus highlights three important spiritual matters:

1. Genuine _____, verses 1-7

(Isaiah 29:13) "... These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

(John 14:6) "... I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(2 Corinthians 5:15) "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."



Oswald Chambers

2. The _____ of God, verses 7-13

(Colossians 2:20-23) "Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations; {21}

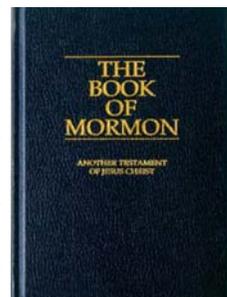
"Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," {22} which all concern things which perish with the using; according to the commandments and doctrines of men? {23} These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh."

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



There are two types of _____ and BOTH are wrong:

#1. Salvation by _____, Ephesians 2:8-9



(Galatians 1:6) "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,"
(Galatians 1:8) "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

(Galatians 2:16) ""knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

#2. The second form is about becoming like _____, Col 2:20f
(Colossians 2:8) "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

(Colossians 2:16-17) "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, {17} which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."

For example:

Bible

(1 Timothy 4:13) "Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

(Acts 17:11) "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

(Joshua 1:8) ""This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. ..."

(Psalms 1:2) "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."

(Psalms 119:97) "Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day."

Movies

(Matthew 5:28) ""But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

(Philippians 4:8) "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things."

